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A chance to show their stuff

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MEDIA RELEASE

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A CHANCE TO SHOW THEIR STUFF

By Annette Trinity
Office of University Relations
University of Montana

MISSOULA--

It seems that there is always some sort of music competition going on. It's not often, however, that competitors have a chance to "show their stuff" on the national level. Recently, three Missoula musicians represented Montana in national competitions, competing with other top singers from every part of the country.

University of Montana graduate student Tim Campbell and Missoula Sentinel High School student Pat Lambros both placed first in their categories in the state and regional Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) competitions this spring, which qualified them for the national competitions. In March, both traveled to the national MTNA competitions in Kansas City, Mo., and did extremely well. Campbell was second runner-up in the college division while Lambros was first runner-up in the high school division.

Lynn Holding, a junior in music at UM, won first place in the Metropolitan Opera Company Northwest Regional Auditions in January in Seattle where she competed with singers from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, Montana, and western Canada. From there she went on to the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in early March in New York City. While there, she had the opportunity to participate in a week of coaching by members of the Metropolitan Opera staff as well as attend their rehearsals and performances.

(over)

A CHANCE TO SHOW-- add one

Helding has also sung in MTNA competitions. In 1981 she represented the Northwest region in the national competitions in Phoenix, Ariz.

When asked what they felt contributed greatly to their growth and achievements as musicians, each said that it was a combination of hard work, discipline and quality instruction from members of the UM music faculty.

Lambros, who has studied with UM professor George Lewis for the last four years, commended Lewis for his vast amount of patience. "He knew when to push me and when not to push me," she said. Lambros comes from a musical family, a circumstance she feels is partly responsible for her enthusiasm and dedication as a musician. "They've always encouraged me," she said.

Helding and Campbell, who have studied with UM associate professor Esther England for four and seven years, respectively, highly value her knowledge and direction. Helding said, "She's an energetic person and a positive teacher. She's a good teacher because she allows her students to discover things at their own pace."

Campbell says that she is "one of the finest voice teachers in the nation." He added that "she has so much energy and a dynamic personality with the brains to match, which is why she has so many successful students."

In any voice competition, it's of major importance to have an accompanist who is sensitive to the music and the singer. In this respect, all three musicians have had the good fortune of working and performing with Jan Halmes. As Campbell said, "She's an important part of the performance." He feels that she is one of the reasons he and Lambros did so well in Kansas City. He added that the teachers at MTNA competitions are always favorably commenting on her. To Lambros Halmes is more than an accompanist-- she's also a coach.

Through the abilities of individuals such as these, Montana, once considered by some as a cultural wasteland, is becoming increasingly better known. She, too, has her share of talent.

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